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THE CHILD'S

MONTH OF MARY.

"MONSTRA TE ESSE MATREM."
"SHOW THYSELF A MOTHER."

LONDON:
RICHARDSON AND SON, 172, FLEET STREET;
9, CAPEL STREET, DUBLIN; AND DERBY.
1851.

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We approve of the Publication of this
Westm. Ap. 14, 1851.

N. Card. W

TO THE

Immaculate Heart of Mary,

AS A TRIBUTE

OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE

THIS TRANSLATION

IS HUMBLY DEDICATED,

BY

AN UNWORTHY CHILD OF MARY.

MAY YOUR IMMACULATE HEART,

O MARY,

BE PRAISED, BLESSED, HONOURED, LOV

IMITATED,

THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD.

NOTICE

RESPECTING THE MONTH OF MARY.

In consequence of all that has been said of late years touching this delightful practice of devotion, it has been thought advisable by a servant of Mary, to write a short notice upon the subject, with a view of causing so lovely an exercise of piety to be known and adopted, as much as possible, by every christian family.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS DEVOTION.

It was in Italy that it originated. The intention proposed in establishing it, was to divert the minds of the people, in a salutary manner, from the amusements and the dangerous festivities connected with the return of Spring, and of which pastimes, especially in Italy, the lower orders have ever shown themselves immoderately fond. The success of this *design* has surpassed all expectation. *Dissipation* has given way to piety; the *exercises* of a devotion, replete wit

charms, have consigned to oblivion those diversions of which the consequences are, in general, disorder and licentiousness.

During this month, the whole of Italy resounds with the praises of Mary. It is impossible to form an idea of the joy, the fervour, and a certain indescribable spiritual satisfaction and peace with which the countenance of every child of Mary is radiant during this delightful season.

From Italy the practice of the "Month of Mary" passed into France towards the end of the last century. It was received with an eagerness and an enthusiasm difficult to express. Belgium declared itself later in favour of this pious movement of the devout servants of Mary. The political events which took place in France after the introduction of the "Month of Mary," most probably prevented its being more quickly made known to that truly Catholic country. The joyful sounds of the praises of Mary have, at length, found an echo, during this beauteous month, even in this our Protestant land. The devotion becomes, every succeeding year, more widely known *and appreciated*; let us hope it will shortly *be propagated* amongst us, in an extraordi*nary and* consoling manner. And you,

my dear reader, who peruse this short notice, whoever you may be, make it your glory and your pride to assist in establishing the "Month of Mary" in all christian families. Your reward will be great, I trust, and you will enjoy the precious blessing of peace at the hour of death.

MANNER OF PERFORMING THE MONTH OF MARY.

Select the most appropriate place in your house—raise therein a small altar, and place upon it the statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin; ornament the altar in the best manner you are able; surround it with shrubs, flowers, objects of piety, &c. Assemble all the members of your family and household, together with some neighbours or friends, who, like yourself, are animated with devotional sentiments towards the Blessed Virgin. Recite, in common, every day during the month, some prayers in her honour, such as the Litany, or the Beads; and read a chapter out of some one of the many pious works *composed* to the glory of Mary. At the *commencement* of the "Month of Mary *propose* to yourself some particular in

tion, and renew it daily before you begin the prayers. What a ravishing sight to behold a great number of houses converted thus, into so many little oratories, chapels, and sanctuaries, during the most lovely month of the year! Oh what an innocent, delightful, and edifying practice is that of the "Month of Mary!"

May he who writes these lines, see it solidly established!.....He will then die in peace.

APPEAL TO THE SERVANTS OF MARY.

Ministers of the Lord, religious men and women, christians of both sexes, who have been blessed with devotion to the Blessed Virgin, permit one of her servants, who owes his happiness to her, to exhort you to extend, as much as in you lies, the practice of the "Month of Mary;" and begin with your own families, if, up to this time, you have deferred to do so. Saint Bonaventura affirms, that they who are careful to publish her praises, may rest assured of paradise.

Children of Mary, give honour and *love to your* Mother.

Month of Mary.

FOR THE EVE OF THE FIRST OF MAY.

Prayer.

O Mary, I offer Thee my heart; bless it, and so dispose it that I may sanctify each day of the month which is dedicated to Thee. Young as I am, I have already offended Jesus, thy divine Son. I have grieved Thee by my defects; my disobedience, my negligence in the performance of my duties, and in the service of God. I am sincerely sorry for all these offences: I repent of all my faults; and prostrate before Thee, my dear Mother, I make a firm resolution to flee from sin, which is the greatest of all evils; and to practise virtue.

Reflection.

Mary is the greatest, the most beautiful, the most perfect model of perfection a simple creature can present us with

She is also the most tender of Mothers; the most sensible of our wants, the most capable of assisting us therein. She has a particular affection for children who honour her, who love her, and who place themselves under her protection.

Example.

Our Divine Saviour, the amiable Jesus, always had the most ardent affection for Mary, His beloved Mother. While yet enveloped in swaddling clothes, and lying in the stable of Bethlehem, He was the joy and delight of His holy Mother. She embraced and fondled Him with maternal tenderness; her whole happiness consisted in the contemplation of this adorable Infant, who filled her heart with inexpressible felicity.

Let us imitate the child Jesus, if we wish to render ourselves agreeable to Mary, and to draw down upon us her blessing and her favours.

Practice. Frequently invoke Mary, by the recital of the *Ave Maria.*

Ejaculatory Prayer. Holy Mary, pray for us.

FIRST DAY.

HAPPINESS OF SERVING GOD FROM CHILDHOOD.

Reflection.

By giving ourselves early to God, we prepare for ourselves a life abounding with consolation, and rich in merit; we are also spared the bitter regret caused by sin, and by the loss of the most valuable portion of our existence.

The pious child is the favourite of heaven; he is blessed of God; he is the friend of Jesus; he is protected by Mary. His heart resembles a lovely garden, in which the most beautiful flowers, those of virtue, grow, develope themselves gradually, and are matured.

Prayer.

O Mary, Virgin conceived without sin! I offer thee the first years of my life, and the whole period of my existence in this world. My soul has been purified by the Sacrament of Baptism; take it under thy protection; help me to preserve without stain the robe of innocence I then received; but should I have the misfortune

Jesus and Mary.

... his earliest infancy, ...
devotion towards Mary.
met with one of her imag...
eagerly and kissed it with
he perceived in a painting,
tation of her whom he cons...
loving Mother, he fixed his e...
upon her, he addressed her ...
sions of the most filial confi...
was only four years old, whe...
ed, with the charming simplic...
hood, O Mary! if you only ...
much I love you!

Practice. Accustom yours...
'orm daily some particular...

Ejaculatory ...

you would flee from a mad and furious animal.

He who commits sin, abandons his soul to the devil, and prepares for himself eternal torments unless he does penance.

Would you eat a fruit, however delicious it might appear, if you were certain it would poison you? Would you, to quench your thirst, drink of a liquid that would cause your death? Oh! my child, sin produces evils as great and greater still than these. When you are tempted, or exposed to danger, cry out immediately: "O Mary! O Mary! come to my assistance! Do not allow your child to perish."

Example.

Young Decalogne, who deservedly obtained the name of "The Virtuous Scholar," while running, one day, across a garden, fell into a dry, but very deep well. When he was drawn out, every one supposed he must be dangerously hurt; but to the great astonishment of all present, he appeared full of life and health, and ran immediately to throw *himself* into the arms of his mother. "*It is to* the Blessed Virgin," he said *afterwards*, "It is to the Blessed Virg

especially those of your
mother hastens towards y
she hears from you a cry o
like manner, Mary, who i
Mother, will not leave you w
tance in the perils which sur

Practice. Avoid the occasio
ing God, and in all dangers h
to Mary.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Mothe
pray for us.

THIRD DAY.

PRACTICE OF VIRTUE.

secrated to Mary, and present her also with a sweet and lovely nosegay, composed of the roses of piety, and the lily of innocence. Add thereto the flowers of those virtues which should especially adorn your early years: modesty, docility, meekness, love of useful occupation. Then will Mary shed new gifts upon you, then will she imprint upon your forehead and in your heart, the precious character of fidelity and perseverance.

Example.

Saint Aloysius, the special protector of youth, evinced, like all the Saints, the most tender devotion towards Mary. When only six years of age, it was his custom, as he mounted the stairs of his father's palace, to salute the Queen of Virgins, addressing her in the words of the angel: "Hail Mary." From that time he endeavoured to imitate her virtues, and he afterwards attained a high degree of sanctity.

Practice. Perform some act of the virtue which appears the most difficult to you.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Most amiable Mother, pray for us.

...only a chi...
...eputation, nor renov...
the most part, is igno...
ence and bestows no at...
Nevertheless in prayer,...
self before God Himself,...
converse with Him; and...
so powerful, deigns to ...
He listens to you; He lik...
He is pleased to grant you...
Ah! my dear child, pr...
faith, with respect, with a...
confidence, with all the lov...
young heart is capable.
Beg of Mary to obtain fo...
vent soul and pure h...
to Mary ...

to Mary under all circumstances. When he received new clothes, he repaired to the Church of our Lady, and presenting himself before Mary, begged of her to obtain for him that, during the whole time he wore them, he might not have the misfortune of offending her Divine Son. He offered to her, in the same manner, his books, and everything he had for his own use, and he never performed any action without having first implored the blessing of his holy Mother.

Practice. Be careful never to omit your morning and night prayers—and while conversing with God often recal to mind His holy presence.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Mother of our Creator, pray for us.

FIFTH DAY.

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS.

You would have been deeply affected, and you would have wept bitterly, had you stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross, when her beloved Son hung bleeding and suspended thereon. The holy sacrifice of the Mass, my child, is the *continuation* of the sacrifice of the Cross: *endeavour* therefore to assist at it with

thereat with a gr
still very young, and yet
you not already enjoye
Have you ever thought c
you ever expressed your
God for it? My child, ne
ungrateful towards the be
and the most tender of fath

Example.

Young Berchmans, a piou
Mary, had a particular favo
from the Blessed Virgin. I
render himself agreeable
aside, for some

and he gratefully acknowledged her kindness during the remainder of his life.

Practice. Assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays and holydays with the greatest possible devotion; and on week days, as often as you are able.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Mother of our Redeemer, pray for us.

SIXTH DAY.

HAPPINESS OF SERVING AT MASS.

The example of Mary, lavishing her care upon her Divine Son, and rendering Him every service which her maternal love could suggest, has frequently been presented to you. When you serve at Mass, my child, you approach Jesus who is present on the altar; and you act, towards Him, the part of a little servant whom He loves, and whom He has chosen for Himself. How glorious to fill so honourable a post! Endeavour as often as this happiness is yours, to enter into the sentiments of love and respect which animated the immaculate heart of the holy Mother of God.

Children are generally allowed the *privilege* of serving at mass, becaus

so agreeable to the Al

Examp

Young Albini loved t
at Mass, and he did s
modesty, fervour and r
example inspired all pr
same holy feelings of dev
and venerable persons ha
the mere sight of this chil
excited them to piety; an
looking at him, they represe
selves an angel sent from hea
at the holy Sacrifice.

Practice. Con
serving

SEVENTH DAY.

STUDY.

Education is one of the greatest blessings a child can receive. A good education is of more value than riches and treasures. He who employs usefully the period of his studies, prepares for himself a happy and useful manhood and old age. Read, write, study to please God, and your good Mother, the blessed Virgin Mary. Offer to her in a special manner your studies during this month, which is consecrated to her; offer to her the little difficulties you have to overcome, and whatever rewards you may obtain. Think to yourself that she is looking at you, that she encourages you; by this means you will acquire energy, ardour and facility, while, at the same time, you will amass a treasure of merits that will be most agreeable to the august Protectress of youth.

Example.

Alexander Bercius, was only seven years of age when he was sent to college.

In the performance of his little duties, he only sought to please Jesus and Mary. The purity and simplicity of the motives which animated this pious child in the pursuit of his studies, drew down upon him great favours from heaven. Those who have written his life, assure us that the Blessed Virgin often honoured him with her visit, while he was studying, and that she instructed him as a master instructs his pupils.

Practice. Often call to mind the presence of God during study-time.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Most prudent Virgin, pray for us.

EIGHTH DAY.

LOVE OF OCCUPATION.

Man is born to labour; idleness is the parent of vice. These are two truths upon which you ought to meditate from your childhood. Perhaps, young as you are, you are obliged to labour in the sweat of your brow in order to gain a livelihood. Perhaps also the care of *your parents* alone is sufficient for your *subsistence*. In either case, bless God *for all His* benefits, and never listen to

the voice of idleness and indolence. Do not work only when your master or your father is watching you; but remember that Mary has her eye upon you, and that in order to prove yourself the worthy son of so holy a mother, you should never give way to negligence or a distaste for the duties of your state of life.

Example.

Contemplate, my son, the divine child Jesus in the house of Nazareth. Mary was poor; Joseph was a simple artizan. Although both were of the royal race of David, they were compelled to live by the labour of their hands. As soon as Jesus Himself was old enough to work, He helped His foster-father as much as He could, and the divine hands of our amiable Saviour busied themselves frequently with the rough tools of a carpenter.

Practice. Unite your occupations with those of the child Jesus.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Most faithful Virgin, pray for us.

NINTH DAY.

RECREATION.

A certain portion of time is daily allotted to you for your amusement, by way of recreating both your body and your mind; enjoy yourself during this period with that calm and peaceful joy which is the fruit of a tranquil conscience. At play, as in every other action of your life, show yourself a true child of Mary; the enemy of quarrelling, evil discourse, and excessive or riotous mirth.

Let your conduct inspire the love of virtue, and that of devotion to your good Mother, by showing yourself constantly good, cordial, obliging towards your companions. Your very games will thus afford you an opportunity of doing good and of gaining souls to God, whereas they are but too frequently a source of disorder and sin.

Example.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin was *strenuously* cultivated in a certain school.

The young people vied with each other in the zeal and love with which they endeavoured to testify their veneration for their celestial protectress.

When the season of flowers arrived, they arranged in their play-ground a pretty flower-bed, on which they formed with plants, in verdant letters, the words of the litany: "Mary, Cause of our joy." Thus did the Blessed Virgin preside over their innocent amusements, and whenever they happened to look upon these touching words, a pious thought immediately elevated their hearts towards the Queen of Angels.

Practice. Deprive yourself of some little recreation in honour of Mary.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Cause of our joy, Pray for us.

TENTH DAY.

MEALS.

Whether you eat or drink, do all for the glory of God.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in the midst of privation, and in the most abstemious manner. Perhaps Divine Providence has placed you in the midst

abundance. In this case, often thi
your holy models, in order that you
restrain every inclination to greedi
Perhaps you have only what is str
necessary in the way of food. Rej
if so, that you are in the same cond
here below as Jesus and Mary. R
sent to yourself sometimes that you
taking your repast in company with
Holy Family, and receive your food
the hand of your mother as if it
Mary herself offering it to you.

Example.

Blessed Herman, who was surna
Joseph on account of his devotio
Mary, frequently took pleasure, wh
child, in conversing with the Ble
Virgin and her Divine Son before a
ture, in which she is represented
Jesus in her arms. He offered her
nice things that were given him, an
begged of her to request Jesus to ac
them. Whenever he spoke to Mary
always addressed her by the title of
good Mother.

Practice. Deprive yourself during
month of Mary of something you w
like to eat.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Spiritual
pray for us.

ELEVENTH DAY.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE.

The admirable purity of the heart of Mary was never sullied by the least stain.

She was conceived without sin, and her soul was constantly embellished by the practice of every virtue, As for us, my child, we offend our Lord from our earliest years, and scarcely do we attain the use of reason ere we forget the innumerable blessings of our God. Let us at least repair our faults and our ingratitude, by approaching the sacrament of penance, in which the goodness of God offers us pardon and forgiveness. Let us examine our conscience with care, confess our sins with sincerity, and detest them as the greatest of all evils. Let us also, under the auspices of Mary, make firm resolutions to avoid for the future everything likely to offend her Divine Son.

Example.

John Danmond avoided during the *evening* and morning which preceded his *confession*, everything capable of distur

penetrated with fear and c
awaited with humility the
presenting himself to the
Jesus Christ. On leaving
sional, he observed the same
and his very exterior long re
of the holy impression whic
ment had made upon his so

Practice. Examine you
every evening, and approac
larity the tribunal of penanc

Ejaculatory Prayer. Mirr
pray for us.

TWELFTH DA

worthy of the favour by increasing daily in wisdom and virtue.

If you have already been admitted to the celestial banquet, give thanks to God, and let it be your greatest happiness to prepare your heart for Jesus, that He may come and inhabit therein anew. How great must have been the felicity of the Blessed Virgin in living so many years constantly with Jesus. Well, my dear child, this happiness is offered to yourself. This same Jesus is present in the Blessed Eucharist; He is hidden under the humble appearance of bread by way of inducing you more tenderly to come and receive Him.

O Mary, I entreat of you, obtain that my heart may be enriched with those holy dispositions which animated yours, so that when Jesus comes to visit me, He may find therein an agreeable abode.

Example.

"I never," said young Decalogne, of whom we have already spoken, "spent more delightful moments than on the day of my First Communion. My joy was so great that I could not speak a single word; and my tears were so abundant that I found it impossible to repeat

satisfied your longing
Myself to you; will you
that you will never cons
I answered: 'Yes, inde
you, and will always l
measure, and with my w

Practice. Prepare you
nicate at least once duri
Mary.

Ejaculatory Prayer. A
nant, pray for us.

THIRTEENTH

DUTIES TOWARDS P

my child, to obtain for you grace to imitate her in this. Accustom yourself to obey God when obeying your father and your mother. A docile child draws down benedictions upon his family; a rebellious child is often the cause of disturbances and dissensions. The only case in which you do not owe obedience to your parents, is when you are commanded to do something contrary to the law of God. But you must always pray for them, assist them in their wants and necessities, and render them every service becoming a tender and respectful child.

Example.

Let us return to the holy house of Nazareth, and contemplate anew the divine child Jesus. He was the Master of heaven and earth, of all its treasures, of all its riches, of all its grandeur, yet the gospel relates the account of the whole period of time He spent with Mary and Joseph in these words:—He was subject to them.

Practice. Accustom yourself to obey promptly, and without any observation.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Gate of heaven, *pray for us.*

my dear child, of the sor
if God prolong your days
will not fail to gain this
a day passes in which on
rience some contradictio
heart has not someth
To-day you are the object
tender solicitude of
to-morrow, perchance, wil
orphan. You yourself
health, and to-morrow, pe
be a prey to illness and su
then early, my dear child
the will of your heavenly
herself, who was elevated i

tears, and prostrated herself before an image of the Blessed Virgin; there she besought the Queen of sorrows to act as a mother towards her, to adopt her as a child, and to bestow upon her powerful aid and protection.

Practice. Be careful never to murmur under the vexations you meet with in life.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Seat of wisdom, pray for us.

FIFTEENTH DAY.

TEMPTATIONS.

We have now arrived, my dear child, at the middle of the beautiful month of Mary. Well! are we more docile, more pious, more faithful to our duties than we were at the beginning? Have we not resisted, by our evil inclinations, the abundant graces that Mary had drawn down upon us? Have we not listened to the perfidious counsels of the spirit of darkness, in preference to the sweet and amiable voice of our good Mother? The devil prowls around you, seeking to *devour* you, my child; he is jealous of *your* innocence, and of your wish to *belong to* God. As the lamb, threatened

by the wolf, finds a secure shelter near the shepherd, who watches in its defence, so do you take shelter and refuge in the bosom of Mary; she will protect you against every attack, she will defend you against every snare, she will obtain for you a complete victory over your enemies.

Example.

Saint Francis of Sales, while pursuing his studies, was assailed by so violent a temptation of despair, that his health was even affected by it, and he was becoming fearfully thin. He did not know what remedy to apply in order to surmount it; when one day, on entering a church in Paris, he happened to cast his eyes upon a picture of the Blessed Virgin. This sight produced upon him an inexpressible effect; confidence sprung up anew in his heart; his eyes filled with tears; he prayed with an abundance of pious feelings, such as he was no longer accustomed to experience; and when he withdrew, the most delightful calm had replaced his former agitation and disquietude.

Practice.—Have recourse to Mary in your temptations.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Tower of ivory, pray for us.

SIXTEENTH DAY.

ON BAD COMPANY.

Good fruit placed amongst that which is spoiled or rotten, will itself quickly decay. Thus will it be with you, my child, if you frequent vicious companies. You would flee from an assassin who sought to wound you with a knife, or a dagger. How then, can you derive any pleasure from the society of a person who is the enemy of God, and your eternal salvation? The injury which so miserable an associate will effect in your soul, the cruel death he will inflict, are evils infinitely more deplorable than the severest wounds upon the body.

Should, then, any one endeavour to entice you into evil society, flee like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, when they withdrew into Egypt, to avoid the pursuit of Herod.

Let all your efforts tend solely to one point—that of preserving the friendship of Jesus, of the angels, and saints.

Example.

A good and virtuous young man was going one Sunday to church, when he was met by some wicked companions, who ridiculed his conduct, and tried to induce him to accompany them. He resisted for some time, but at length weakly yielded to their importunity. He followed these wicked wretches, who styled themselves his friends; imitated them in their crimes, committed an enormous sin, and was that very moment punished by death. This dreadful chastisement struck terror into the hearts of his cruel and unworthy companions. It ought to teach us, my child, how important it is to be constantly on our guard, lest we also expose ourselves to eternal perdition.

Practice.—Make choice of a truly virtuous friend.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Tower of David, pray for us.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.

BAD CONVERSATIONS.

From the abundance of the heart, the *mouth* speaketh. Impure lips denote a

corrupt heart. Never listen to the discourse of persons who have neither religion nor virtue, unless you wish to expose yourself to the misfortune of becoming like unto them. A child of Mary should, in the course of conversation, frequently imagine himself in company with the Holy Family, and never utter a word which he would be ashamed to say in the presence of Jesus and His holy Mother.

Example.

Saint Bernardin of Sienna resembled an angel in his exterior; his devotion to the Blessed Virgin was extremely great; he had recourse to her protection under every emergency. During the period of his studies, his modesty acted as a restraint upon the bad conversations of his companions. They never dared, in his presence, to violate the laws of decorum and of religion. All wicked discourse ceased as soon as he appeared; "silence," exclaimed his comrades—"Bernardin is coming."

Practice.—Be guarded in your conversation, and ever remember, that in the *Holy Communion*, your mouth has been *sanctified* by the presence of Jesus.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Morning Star, pray for us.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.

ON GOOD AND BAD BOOKS.

Reading is the food of the soul; if it be good, it nourishes and fortifies the soul; if bad, it poisons and kills the soul. It is an advantageous thing to know how to read; but if you make use of the instruction you have received, to read books in which religion and morality are not respected, it would be preferable for you to have remained ignorant.

O Mary, here at your feet, I make a firm resolution never to grieve your maternal heart, by reading bad books; but, on the contrary, to confine myself to such as will form my mind and heart to the practice of those virtues of which you have set me the example.

Example.

A young man who had been well brought up, had the misfortune to read *some bad* books. One day, as he was *travelling by* sea, in company with a *worthy priest,* he was loudly extolling a bad

book which he had in his possession. The good priest, moved with compassion, spoke to this prodigal child, with all the authority derived from his age, and his dignity as minister of God; he spoke to him in such strong and moving terms, that the young man was overcome. Have recourse to the Blessed Virgin, said the old man, as he finished his discourse. Alas! replied the young man, I loved her so much formerly in the college in which I was educated, I was so strongly recommended to be faithful to her. "Do you wish to regain the friendship of Mary?" "Yes, I wish it with all my heart." "Well, then, offer to her the sacrifice of the book, which is so dear to you." The young man immediately divided the book into two parts, and they each threw one of the portions into the sea. This action was agreeable to the Queen of Angels, for the young man received abundant graces, and lived ever afterwards in a very edifying manner.

Practice.—Read every day a small portion of some pious book.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Ark of the Covenant, pray for us.

NINETEENTH DAY.

EXAMPLE.

Death is the chastisement reserved for those unfaithful subjects who excite others to rebel against the king. What fate, then, ought that child to expect who seeks, by his bad example, to augment the number of the enemies of God? He, on the contrary, who, by his virtuous conduct, excites others to do good is like an angel on earth, and renders himself particularly agreeable to Jesus and to His Holy Mother.

Example.

Young Augustus L——, who died in 1829, distinguished himself from his childhood by great devotion to Mary, and by the practice of all the virtues of his age. Having been placed, when only nine years old, at an excellent school, he soon became the model of all his little companions. He loved Mary with all his heart, and when he had any favour to ask of her, he, with charming simplicity, *would address* a letter to her with this *inscription*: "To my good Mother in *heaven.*" This young child was called

into the bosom of his heavenly Father when only eleven years old; but his memory subsists, and will be preserved for many a year. The sight alone of the objects he made use of, is for his young comrades a silent exhortation. His name has been engraven on the bed he occupied, and permission to sleep in it is granted only to those pupils who deserve it by their good conduct.

Practice.—Avoid carefully every thing offensive to your neighbour.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Morning Star, pray for us.

TWENTIETH DAY.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

God is every where. No one can escape His divine presence; He sees you at home with your parents, at church, at school, in the street, in your own room; no action of your life, no thought of your mind, no affection of your heart, can be hid from His all-seeing eye. Do you often think of this great truth? If you do not forget it, my child, you will never dare to *commit* sin in the presence of your God and your Judge.....When Mary had the

Mary.

Example.

A virtuous young man was se
parents into a strange city, and s
to a person in whom they place
dence by no means merited. T
man had only been a few days
unworthy guide, when the latte
to drag him into vice. The you
tian resisted the seduction witl
might. "What are you afraid o
the agent of the spirit of darknes
are far away from your parents,
never know any thing about y

Practice.—Think of the presence of God several times during the day.

Ejaculatory Prayer.—Virgin most renowned, pray for us.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

ON HUMAN RESPECT.

Human respect is a cowardliness unworthy of a christian and a generous heart. Modesty should raise a blush on the forehead of a child; he should blush at vice, and at every thing which stains the soul; but to blush at God, at Mary, at piety, at virtue; to fear and tremble at the call of duty—what baseness! what a disgrace! O Mary, what have I to fear on the part of man, why should I tremble at his ridicule, if you are my protectress? You who never abandoned your divine Son in the midst of the humiliations and outrages of His passion, suffer me not, I beseech of you, to separate myself from Him; never let me be ashamed to declare myself His child and thine, in order that on the Last Judgment Day, He may number me amongst those who have confessed His holy Name upon earth.

Example.

A young soldier who had preserved his piety in spite of all the dangers incident to his profession, one day forgot his beads and his prayer-book which he left in the public room. They were soon perceived, and the opportunity was deemed excellent for getting up a laugh at his expense. Accordingly as soon as he returned, one took his beads and hung them on a stick; another took the book and all joined in a mock procession. The young soldier performed all his devotional duties as usual, without a blush or a complaint. The next day, they began again; the day following, likewise, and so on for the space of three weeks. Yet this generous Christian never shewed the least ill temper, never ceased to serve God as he was accustomed to do. His comrades at length became ashamed of persecuting this virtuous young man; the trial won for him their esteem, and obtained for him great merit in the eyes of God and of the Blessed Virgin.

Practice. Never fear man when you *have a duty* to perform.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Health of the *weak, pray* for us.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.

ON THE END OF MAN.

My child, let us pass the remaining nine days of the month of Mary, in a kind of little retreat, by reflecting in a particular manner on the great truths of religion. First then: for what purpose were you placed in this world? Do you sometimes ask yourself this question? Do you reflect upon it seriously? You were placed in this world to know, love, and serve God: you were placed here to sanctify and save your soul. All the rest is only vanity and deceit, and if your heart becomes attached to foolish things, you expose yourself to the misfortune of losing your soul for ever. Does your conduct prove that you are persuaded of this truth?

Example.

Mary made it constantly the business of her life to labour for the end for which God had created her. In her parents' *house*, in that of Nazareth, in Bethlehem, *in Egypt*, upon Calvary, always humble, *recollected*, modest, pious, she had but

one view: the glory and love of her divine Son. Child of Mary, walk in the footsteps of your Mother; appreciate as she did according to their just value, all the perfidious joys and the false enjoyments of the world; seek and desire one thing only: to love God, and to serve Him faithfully all your days.

Practice. Ask yourself from time to time why you were placed in this world.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Refuge of sinners, pray for us.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

ON DEATH.

You have scarcely made your appearance in the world, and yet the word death resounds already in your ears. Yes, my dear child, you will die; perhaps in a few days, in a few weeks, or a few years; perhaps you will live to a great age. This matters not. The moment will most certainly come when you must quit this life. And on this moment will your eternity depend. And this moment is *absolutely* unknown to you.

O my child, endeavour then so to live *that you* may not be taken by surprise *at that dreadful* moment. Repeat often

with the greatest fervour the prayer, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death." Recite it with confidence: Mary always protects her children in their passage to eternity.

Example.

Saint Stanislas Kostka died on the Feast of the Assumption according to the request he had frequently made to the Blessed Virgin. In his last moments, he still wore his beads around his arm. "Of what use are they to you," said some one to him, "you are no longer able to say them?" "That is true," replied the dying saint, "but they remind me of my good mother." A few moments afterwards, he gave up his soul to God, the 15th of August, at three in the morning, and had the happiness he so ardently desired, that of entering heaven on this great day.

Practice. Think sometimes of death as you are retiring to rest.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Help of Christians, pray for us.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

ON THE PARTICULAR JUDGMENT.

Scarcely will your soul have left your body ere it will appear before the tribunal of Jesus Christ. There all your thoughts, all your actions, all your desires will be considered, discussed, judged.

You will, besides, my child, have to render an account of all the particular graces you have received; graces of birth, of baptism, of education; graces of good advice, of remorse, of sacraments. If you have lived in a virtuous and christian manner, oh! what joy, what inexpressible happiness will be your lot! But if you have led a vicious life, if you have neglected the practice of your duties, what a dreadful sentence will be pronounced against you! Then, my child, Mary can no longer render you any assistance; ah! make then good use, while you can, of her powerful protection.

Example.

Belshazzar, who had abandoned himself to all kinds of wickedness and every

excess, saw quite suddenly, while profaning the sacred vessels in a banquet, a terrible hand writing his judgment on the wall, in the following words: I have counted, I have weighed, I have divided. I have counted thy days and they are ended. I have weighed thy actions and they are condemned. I have divided thy kingdom, and I have delivered thee to thy enemies, The following night all this was executed, and Belshazzar being killed appeared before the judgment seat of God.

Practice. When you are tempted to sin, think of the judgments of God.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Comforter of the afflicted, pray for us.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

ON THE GENERAL JUDGMENT.

Besides the particular judgment, there will be at the end of time, a general judgment, in which all the iniquities of sinners will be manifested in the face of heaven and earth. Then the sins of every kind, the most hidden sins, the sins which overwhelm with shame those who commit them, will be known alike to angels and to men.

The damned will curse their fate; they will regret, but alas! too late, their abuse of grace, of the mercy of Jesus, of the protection of Mary, and they will be precipitated for ever into an eternal abyss of woe.

Example.

Saint Jerome passed the latter part of his life in the midst of a desert, occupying his time with prayer, meditation, and the practice of the greatest austerities. He had ever before his eyes, the terrible judgments of the Lord. Day and night, he fancied he heard the awful trumpet which was to summons him before the dread tribunal of God; he detested his sins, he implored mercy, and he entreated the Lord not to judge him according to the rigour of His justice.

Practice. Beg of God, by the intercession of Mary, to spare you in the last day!

Ejaculatory Prayer. Queen of angels, pray for us.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

ON HELL.

Descend for an instant in spirit into hell. O my son, if the love of sin attracts you, most quickly will you discover your error. Behold these avenging flames, listen to the howling of the devils, the groans and the curses of the damned. Unhappy wretches! they have sacrificed their soul for some short-lived enjoyments; they have lost all; and the only fruit of their sins, their joys, their riches, is rage, despair, inexpressible anguish, and devils for their companions everlastingly.

Example.

Young Louis Beauvais, seeing his mother add fuel to an immense coal-fire, asked her if the fire of hell were as horrible as the one he saw before him. "Alas! my dear son," said she, "the fire you see is nothing compared with that of hell." "Great God! if I were so unhappy as to go there," exclaimed the child, pale with fright. "Hell is not for every-

ing of Saint Bernard, that a true
of Mary was never known to peris
Ejaculatory Prayer. Queen of
archs, pray for us.

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

ON THE ETERNITY OF THE TORMENTS O

How dreadful is any evil which i
to have an end. Never! Try a
derstand this word, my child.
Days, months, years, centuries, the
of ages, millions of ages, will pas
and eternity will still be as the
were only just beginning. You ar

that divine Saviour who has been so prodigal of His graces towards us; from that good and blessed Virgin Mary who has loved us so much. What a dreadful fate!

Example.

Two virtuous women were, during the first persecutions of the Church, arrested because they were Christians. The judge, when he caused them to appear before him, said to one of them: "You see this fire, and these instruments of torture: if you wish to avoid death, renounce your religion." "I only fear," replied this generous Christian, "the torments which are eternal, and the fire that will never be extinguished." The judge, still more irritated, caused her to be beaten with rods, and then thrown into the flames. "You see," said he then to her companion, "what torments await those who refuse to obey my orders." "I only fear," replied the holy woman, "the eternal fire of hell; and it is in order not to suffer therein, that I adore the true God, and Jesus Christ His Son." She also received the crown of martyrdom.

TWENTY-EIGHTH

ON PARADISE.

O Mary! we now return
you, our good Mother; we
talk of Paradise, where y
your divine Son—of the la
with inexpressible delight
soul, united to its God, e
impossible to express or co

O Queen of angels, of
saints, how enchanting th
I shall one day go to he
receive the crown of the
be numbered among the

that you may present me as one of your children to your beloved Son.

Example.

Saint Augustine often spoke of heaven to his flock, and he did so with an energy and fervour which caused the sentiments of his own soul to pass into those of his hearers. One day he said to them: "I will suppose that God were to promise you should live a hundred, a thousand years, in the full enjoyment of all abundance and happiness; but on condition that you should never reign with Him." A general cry interrupted him immediately with, "Let all be taken from us! we wish only for God, for heaven, for paradise."

Practice. Think of the happiness of the Saints when you look up to heaven.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Queen of virgins, pray for us.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

ON A HAPPY ETERNITY.

And this felicity, my child, will last for ever! The faithful soul in paradise is certain of being happy for all eternity.

Free from every alarm, inundated with a torrent of delights, lost in the immensity of the goodness, the beauty, the loveliness of its God; enjoying the society of the incomparable Mary, of the glorious Saint Joseph, of all the angels, of all the saints; joining in the concerts of the seraphim and cherubim; throughout all ages, beyond all ages, during a whole eternity! Happiness of heaven. O happiness of heaven! when shall our hearts understand thee?

Example.

Young Raphael Emmerson, who was a model of piety and resignation, always showed a serene and tranquil countenance even in the midst of the greatest sufferings; the thought of God, of His infinite goodness, of His ineffable rewards, filled his soul with joy. Having warned him of his approaching end, knowing his virtue, the person added: "Well, my child, are you not afraid of death? Your body will be deprived of all motion, it will be lifeless." "But," replied the amiable child, "have you not told me that my soul will be in heaven, and that it will see *God? How, then,* can I fear to die?"

Practice. Often beg of Mary to obtain for you the grace to dwell with her in heaven.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Queen of all Saints, pray for us.

THIRTIETH DAY.

ON PERSEVERANCE.

Mary never ceased for one instant of her life to give us examples of virtue and holiness. My child, walk in the footsteps of your Mother; she shews you the way to heaven; follow this road with her without ever turning aside, without looking back. You will hear voices soliciting you to quit the service of our Lord; if you were to listen to them, my child, if you dare to cast off the sweet yoke of Jesus, you will destroy the work of your salvation which is so happily begun. Should you live twenty, forty, sixty, years, never forget that the crown is granted only to him who *perseveres unto the end.*

Example.

Charles Clarentin lived on earth the life of an angel.

During the long and painful illness which preceded his death, he was assailed by violent temptations; but he had recourse to Mary, and he caused her picture to be placed at the foot of his bed, in order to excite his confidence in her powerful intercession. He repeated with inexpressible fervour: "In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; I shall not be confounded for ever." He added: "I hope also in you, O Mary, my good sovereign! Oh! what lovely things I see," exclaimed he, all at once; "what lovely things I see!" And his eyes were raised to heaven, and bathed in tears of divine love; then taking the crucifix in his trembling hands, he fell asleep in the Lord while pronouncing these words: "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

Practice. Rise again immediately, whenever you have the misfortune to commit a fault.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

THE NOSEGAY FOR MARY.

O Mary, O my good Mother, look, I

beseech of you, upon my heart as upon a garden, the cultivation of which is confided to your care. Sow therein all the virtues most agreeable to you, and cause them to spring up. May holy innocence, humility, meekness, obedience, and piety, embalm it with their delightful fragrance! May your maternal hand, O Mary, root up the weeds of vice, and every plant displeasing in your eyes. Plant, water, prune, in order that your beloved Son, Jesus, may behold with complacency a heart adorned by His holy Mother; and may there arise daily, towards your throne, from these heavenly flowers of virtue, sweet exhalations and delicious perfumes, in testimony of my gratitude and love.

Prayer.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your mediation, without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, behold me, a penitent sinner, sighing out my sins before you, beseeching you to adopt me for your child, and to take upon you the care of my eternal salvation.

onsecration to Mary.

Ejaculatory Prayer. Mary, co
ithout sin, pray for us.